

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 17 are amended. Support for these amendments can be found at least in Figs. 1 and 2, and the corresponding description in the specification, for example, page 16, lines 14-21, and Fig. 9 and the corresponding description in the specification, for example, page 19, lines 7-13. Thus, no new matter is added

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Nguyen at the interview held October 29, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview. Specifically, claims 1, 10 and 17 are amended to comply with the Examiner's helpful suggestions made during the interview.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**A. §103(a) Rejection over Rhome and Tanaka**

Claims 1, 3, 7-9, 10, 11 and 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,095,628 to Rhome in view of JP-11-066703 to Tanaka. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rhome and Tanaka, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 10 and 17. As agreed upon during the personal interview, neither of the applied references teaches nor suggests "a fixed side structure that supports the medium conveyance section and has a covered space formed therein for accommodating the medium conveyance section, the fixed side structure including a first side, a second side, and a length between the first side and the second side, the length being within the covered space, the fixed side structure including a slide rail, the slide rail being within the length of the fixed side structure, the length of the fixed side structure being substantially equal to length of the medium conveyance section," as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 10 and 17 (emphasis added).

However, as acknowledged by the Office Action, Rhome discloses that a portion of the rails 42 is included in the alleged fixed structure. Importantly, Rhome discloses that the rails 42 are disposed along the length of either side of the inner upright panel of the main portion of the housing 12 (Rhome, col. 2, lines 61-66). As shown in Fig. 6, Rhome discloses that the entire housing 12 and the length beyond the housing includes the rails 42. Thus, Rhome does not teach or suggest a slide rail that is within the length of a covered space of the fixed side structure, as recited in the independent claims. Further, Rhome does not teach or suggest that the length of the fixed side structure is "equal to the length of the medium conveyance section," as recited in the independent claims.

Furthermore, neither of the applied references teaches or suggests "wherein the medium conveyance section is controlled so as to move from the second position towards the second side until the center of gravity thereof passes the center of gravity of the fixed side structure, and then return again to the second position," as recited in claim 20, and as similarly recited in claims 21 and 22.

The Office Action asserts that Fig. 6 of Rhome shows that the platen 16 moves from the first side to the rear side and is at a position where its center of gravity has passed the center of gravity of the top section. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

Fig. 6 of Rhome is merely a side elevation view. Fig. 6 of Rhome does not show nor does Rhome disclose how the platen 16 is controlled. Rhome merely discloses that the platen 16 "is fully translatable fore and aft in the direction of arrow E on rails 42 and with respect to housing 12 and ink jet nozzle 24" (Rhome, col. 2, lines 65-67). Thus, Rhome does not teach or suggest this feature.

Tanaka does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Rhome. Tanaka is only cited by the Office Action for its alleged teaching of a medium conveyance section that is

positioned within the length of the fixed side structure, when a power supply to the device is in an off state.

Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 10 and 17 are patentable over Rhome and Tanaka. Further, claims 3, 7-9, 10, 11, 14-16 and 18-22, which variously depend from claims 1, 10 and 17, are also patentable over Rhome and Tanaka, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 10 and 17, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 4, 5, 12 and 13

Claims 4, 5, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rhome in view of Tanaka and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,444 to Drynkin et al. (Drynkin). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rhome, Tanaka and Drynkin, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest the features of claims 4, 5, 12 and 13. Drynkin does not remedy the deficiencies of Rhome and Tanaka discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 10. Drynkin is only cited by the Office Action for its alleged teaching of a cover. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 10. Thus, claims 4, 5, 12 and 13 are patentable over Rhome, Tanaka and Drynkin for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 10, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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